



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

Telephone: 01531 820550

Community Enquiries: 01531 828916

Sixth Form: 01531 828915

Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1QF **www.newent.gloucs.sch.uk** **Email:** admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

17th April, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you in what in normal times would be the last Friday of the Easter Holidays, but today I find myself in a Design Technology classroom making Creepie Stools with children of our key workers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful staff at Newent Community School who did not bat an eyelid when I asked them to continue to work through the holidays. They have produced a varied selection of really fun activities for the children we have with us so that each day of the holiday feels a little different.

You will have heard by now that the lockdown that we are all in is set to continue for at least the next three weeks. I am sure that we all heard the audible groans from our children at the announcement so desperate are they to see their friends again. Rest assured that we will be here waiting to receive them and are already planning how to make up the lost time.

Gloucestershire Children and Young People's Strategy

Over the past few months the Health and Well-Being Board has been developing a Gloucestershire Children and Young People's Strategy. This was prompted by their work with young people of all ages across the county and from questions that young people raised about how life has changed for their generation which has lived with austerity.

The current situation has prompted them to ask these questions with renewed urgency as unfortunately the effects of Covid-19 will be with us for many years to come and the most vulnerable in our society are likely to suffer the most severe consequences.

With this in mind I should be grateful if you would encourage your children to complete the following questionnaire. You can also find further details and a link to the questionnaire on this website.

www.childfriendlygloucestershire.com

The Health and Well-Being Board will feedback to us all in the autumn before taking decisions about how to plan for their future work programme with and for the young people of Gloucestershire.

Twitter and Facebook

There is so much still going on in this time of lockdown @newentschool, If you are not already doing so please follow us on Twitter and/or Facebook for updates and an opportunity to view the amazing work that is being completed at home by our students, weekly art challenges and even an opportunity to start learning the show tunes for our school performance of Sister Act. In fact work to prepare for our next whole school musical 'Sister Act' will begin in earnest on Monday 20th with the first 'Song Learning Challenge' being announced on Twitter. For those who would prefer to work backstage as a member of our crew applications to take part remain open until the end of April. Rather than writing an application this year students are being asked to submit 9 photographs, there are already some wonderful examples on @newentdrama to showcase their talent.

Finally, both our current and future 6th form students are being invited to take part in a national 'Coronavirus Time Capsule' challenge. Students have been contacted via MILK with the details and we look forward to many of them signing up to record this moment in history and what it means to them.

Staying safe online

Further to the information that I have already shared with you all about how to keep your family safe online. The OPCC has just released a short 2 minute animated video about helping children stay safe online during lockdown.

<https://www.facebook.com/GlosOPCC/videos/2812007558919204/>

Distance learning after Easter

Having reflected on the feedback received from students, parents, carers and teaching staff it is clear that there are many positive aspects regarding the 'Distance Learning' that is currently place, as well as some areas where we can develop the provision for our students.

From the week commencing Monday 20th April we will be making some changes to the way in which we deliver 'Distance Learning' to our students. We have attempted to address the main issues raised which included volume of work, varied access to IT resources within the home and clarity of instructions via the HOMEWORK section in Milk. Mr Phillips will be sending full details out to you later today of our revised model that will allow for greater flexibility to suit the varied home circumstances of our school community.

We will keep our distance learning model under constant review, so please feel free to keep sending feedback via email to Mr Phillips at rphillips@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

If you have any issues with access to MILK please email admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk to arrange a password reset.

Very best wishes to you all,

Regards



Alan Johnson
Principal